



Candidate Contract Additional Information

Austin City Code

§ 2-2-11 - VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN CONTRACT.

(A) A candidate for mayor or city council may sign a contract with the City agreeing to abide by limitations on that candidate's contributions and expenditures as specified in this article in exchange for benefits provided under this chapter.

(B) A candidate must personally sign the campaign contract the earlier of:

- (1) 30 days after he or she becomes a candidate under the Texas Election Code; or
- (2) the date the candidate files for a place on the ballot.

(C) Only a candidate who signs a campaign contract with the City will qualify for public funds from the Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund under Article 7 of this chapter (Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund).

(D) A candidate who signs a campaign contract must report a contribution or expenditure during the first reporting period in which it is made and apply the contribution or expenditure to the candidate's voluntary limits. The candidate must file the campaign finance report's data as provided in Section 2-2-26 (Filing of Campaign Finance Report Data).

Texas Election Code

Under Section 251.001(1), a person becomes a candidate by taking “affirmative action,” which includes filing a campaign treasurer appointment (CTA). However, in practicality, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the City Clerk to calculate the date an individual filed the CTA, because a campaign treasurer appointment may be active for several years, and individuals are not required to file an updated CTA before each election. Therefore, the 30-day time period cannot be calculated for individuals with active CTAs. That being the case, the City’s Clerk’s office has set the deadline for individuals to sign the campaign contract as the date the person files an application for a place on the ballot.